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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 THE HAGUE 002955

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STATE FOR T, AC/CB, NP/CBM, VC/CCB, L/ACV, IO/S
SECDEF FOR OSD/ISP
JOINT STAFF FOR DD, PMA-1 FOR WTC
COMMERCE FOR BIS (GOLDMAN)
NSC FOR CHUPA
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/25/2013

TAGS: [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [CWC](#)

SUBJECT: CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC): UNDER SECRETARY
BOLTON EXPRESSES U.S. SUPPORT FOR OPCW DIRECTOR GENERAL
PFIRTER

Classified By: Ambassador Eric M. Javits, Ambassador to the OPCW. Reas
ons: 1.5 (B, D)

1. (U) This is CWC-126-03.

2. (U) Under Secretary Bolton met with OPCW Director-General Pfirter on Nov. 19 to convey strong U.S. support for Pfirter's leadership of the Organization. The DG in turn expressed his appreciation for U.S. support regarding his efforts on reform and transparency. Bolton noted that the OPCW is headed in the right direction, and highlighted the close cooperation between the U.S. and the OPCW Technical Secretariat, which had not been the case under Pfirter's

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predecessor. He stressed his hope that the U.S. could continue to support the DG and the organization as they persevered in pursuing positive directions.

3. (U) As an example, Pfirter stressed and Bolton noted the improvements in the personnel system, and ensuring that qualified people are brought into the OPCW under a fair and open process. Pfirter replied by giving assurances of continued transparency in the recruitment process and noting that he fully shared the Under Secretary's views on the importance of recruiting good people.

4. (U) Bolton went on to credit the OPCW accomplishments this year. In particular, he emphasized the importance the U.S. placed on achieving the extension of its 45% destruction deadline. In addition to reaching agreement on a budget for 2004 to continue operational improvements, Bolton noted the significance of the action plans on universality and national implementation and the importance of doing the work called for therein.

5. (U) The Under Secretary noted the continued rumors that Libya is ready to join the CWC, and asked if there had been any specific indications from the Libyans about imminent accession. Pfirter replied that he had heard the same rumors, but there had as yet been no definite action on the part of Libya. Bolton briefly noted the U.S. concern about the judgment from the ILO Administrative Tribunal in favor of former DG Bustani. Pfirter assured Bolton that the organization is in the process of preparing an appeal for reconsideration.

6. (C) The Under Secretary also expressed concern about covert CW programs, which led to a discussion of the necessity of UN inspection capabilities. Bolton expressed the personal view that there is no reason for UNSCOM in the aftermath of the Iraq action to continue to maintain a separate inspection force to monitor CW programs, as the OPCW should be able increasingly to take on such a responsibility, if and when called upon by the UN provided the budgetary concerns were met. Pfirter agreed, explaining that the UN is aware that the OPCW is ready to assist if called upon. He cautioned, however, that other inspections would have to be foregone or postponed in such an eventuality.

7. (C) Turning to the issue of challenge inspections, Pfirter told the Under Secretary that the TS is committed to readiness for performance of a challenge inspection, if the need arises. He noted again that resources are a key factor, explaining that no challenge inspection(s) have been included in the budget, and that implementation of a challenge inspection would generate a change in the regular inspection schedule. Bolton informed the DG that the U.S. did not currently have plans to call for a challenge inspection.

8. (U) Under Secretary Bolton has cleared this message.

9. (U) Javits sends.
SOBEL